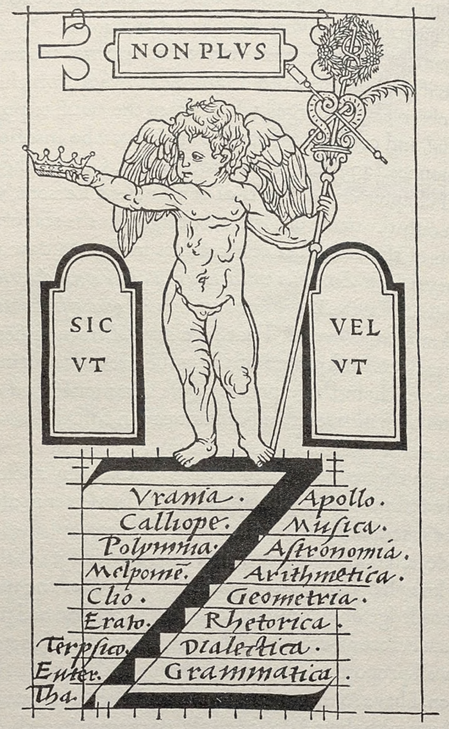
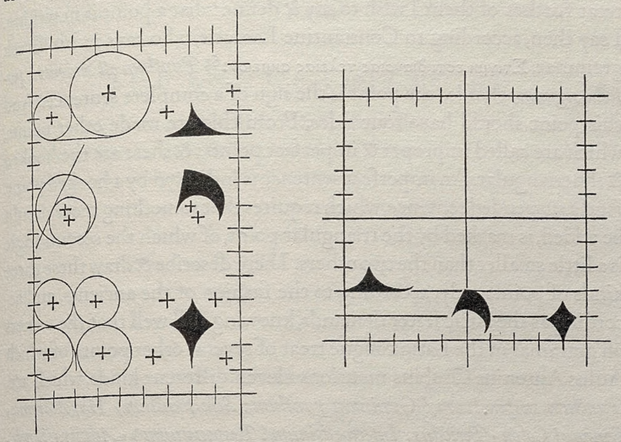
EST SVA CVIQVE SIBI VIRTVS PVLCHERRIMA MERCES.



LO, here is the fine drawing of our last letter, Zeta, which shows clearly the accord between the seven Liberal Arts and the nine Muses with their Apollo, according to arithmetic as well as according to geometry, of which I have heretofore written fully in the Second Book, when I was speaking of the flageolet of Virgil and of the Homeric gold chain. I will say furthermore that this letter Zeta is so well-made that in its thick limb, which is oblique and makes two oblique angles, there is such an arrangement from the first angle below to the last above that

we find there in shortened perspective nine steps, as of a ladder, which I have marked as they coincide with the small squares contained in the large square in which the said letter is described. Consider them well and note how they diminish from point to point up to the elbow at the last angle at the top of the said large square. These steps signify in allegory the upward path to beatitude, which they can follow easily enough who have perfect knowledge of well-made letters, and of arts and sciences. In connection with which I have drawn above the letter a small divine spirit, standing upon his feet ready to award the crown, the sceptre, the palm, or the laurel wreath to all those who shall well & diligently labour to acquire learning, rising from step to step, even to the state of perfection wherein is found every accomplishment worthy of high reward and of exalted honour.

I Might at this point pardonably make an end of my work; but because I see that many who write in Attic letters know not how properly to make the points and distinctions which are necessary according to the divers meanings which occur in writing, I will present a small drawing of those that are most requisite, & will describe them briefly as the worthy ancient fathers used them in past times.



THE points which are most necessary between Attic letters are the triangle, the hooked point, & the four-sided point. The triangular